

Message Text

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USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1928

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,CY

SUBJ: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GREEK CYPRIOT ELECTION PROCEDURE

1. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JULY 1 PASSED ELECTION BILL WHICH PROVIDES FOR ELECTION OF NEW HOUSE BY MAJORITY RATHER THAN PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM. MAJORITY SYSTEM IS TRADITIONAL HERE AND PROVIDES THAT WITHIN EACH ELECTORAL DISTRICT PARTY GAINING MAJORITY OF VOTES WILL GAIN THE SEATS OF THAT DISTRICT.

2. COMMENT: UNTIL LATE JUNE IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT MOST PARTIES HERE FAVORED PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM; BUT COMMUNIST AKEL,
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PSEUDO-SOCIALIST EDEK AND KYPRIANOU'S DEMOCRATIC FRONT CAME

OUT IN FAVOR OF RETAINING MAJORITY SYSTEM. THIS VIEW WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ENDORSED BY HOUSE WITHOUT VOTE WHEN COMMITTEE CONSIDERING SUBJECT INDICATED CHANGE IN SYSTEM MIGHT DELAY ELECTION.

EDUC LEE

ER#LYSSARIDES AT JULY FOURTH RECEPTION TOLD EMBOFF THAT MAJORITY SYSTEM WAS RETAINED BECAUSE PRESIDENT MAKARIOS HAD INDICATED TO PARY LEADERS HE OPPOSED CHAANGING SYSTEM ONCE ELECTIONS HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED. WHATEVER ROLE THIS MAY HAVE PLAYED IN MAKARIOS' THINKING, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM OTHER SOURCES HE IS SOMEWHAT UNEASY AT IDEA OF ELECTIONS, WISHES TO GET THEM OVER WITH IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME, AND WAS RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER PROPORTIONAL SYSTEM IF IT MEANT MOVING ELECTION DATE BACK AND THUS EXTENDING CURRENT POLITICAL BROUHAHA INTO FALL. END COMMENT

3. DECISION HAS ALSO BEEN MADE THAT REFUGEE VOTES WILL BE COUNTED FOR DISTRICT FROM WHICH REFUGEE COMES RATHER THAN DISTRICT OF CURRENT RESIDENCE. THUS, GREEK CYPRIOTS HAVE RETAINED THE SIX TRADITIONAL ELECTIONS DISTRICTS AND AVOIDED ACKNOWLEDGING TURKISH OCCUPATION OF NORTH.

4. ELECTION ROLLS WERE RELEASED JULY 3 REVEALING 243,294 REGISTERED GREEK CYPRIOT VOTERS AS COMPARED TO 263,857 IN 1970 (MOST RECENT) ELECTIONS. 20,000 DIMINUTION IS ACCOUNTED FOR BY: GREEKS STILL ENCLAVED IN NORTH, EMIGRANTS, WORKERS TEMPORARILY OUT OF COUNTRY, DEATHS IN 1974 FIGHTING BUT MOST ESPECIALLY REFUGEES WHO HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED. LAW PROVIDES THAT ELECTION ROLLS REMAIN OPEN FOR 10 DAYS BUT SPECIAL SESSION OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES JULY 9 VOTED TO KEEP ROLLS OPEN ADDITIONAL 7 DAYS UNTIL JULY 20 BECAUSE OF ANOMALOUS SITUATION PREVAILING HERE.

CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OCT: #AS RECEIVED.

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